

Strikers Face Armed Troops in Colombia

By Joseph Hansen

BOGOTA, Sept. 29 — In the American press, the Alberto Lleras Camargo government is pictured as a bastion of democracy in Latin America, one of the regimes that offer a genuine alternative to the pattern of Cuba. Naturally Lleras holds a front place in the line-up for funds under Kennedy's "Alliance for Progress" program. Washington's conviction that Colombia has the right man in the presidency is based on solid facts, as anyone could see strolling through the center of Bogotá the past week. In front of every bank stood military police armed with clubs. Paddy wagons were parked con-

veniently near. At strategic spots squads of mounted soldiers waited beside rows of horses. Throughout the financial area, patrols in olive-green uniforms marched the sidewalks. On the walls huge placards warned the citizenry not to participate in any demonstrations or street meetings. These have been banned by the government. The banks in all other major cities of Colombia were under similar guard. The police and armed forces were being used to break a nationwide bank-workers strike. The unions involved in the strike had been outlawed, their headquarters raided, leaders ar-

rested, pickets jailed on sight. Besides armed forces, the government used other means to try to break the strike. Every major newspaper joined in a front-page "back to work" campaign. When some of the union leaders buckled under the pressure, this campaign gained momentum. The heads of the most powerful unions in Colombia stood aloof, charging "Communist infiltration" among the bank workers. A move to displace the strike leaders received official approval from Lleras himself. Late Tuesday afternoon, the Bogotá city administration granted a concession to a group of independent unions that rallied to the

strikers' cause. The concession was permission to hold an open-air meeting in Bolívar Plaza the next night. The concession had strict limitations. The meeting must be completed within two hours. It must be "orderly." No filing through the streets must follow. Placards were pasted up the day of the meeting warning citizens that any violation of the restrictions would be met with the "severest police measures." Some 6,000 people appeared for the rally, filling one end of the giant square by 6 p.m. In brief speeches over a portable megaphone, union spokesmen sought to counter the propaganda of the capitalist press, explaining the

real issues at stake. All of them scored the government's strikebreaking role. The desire for "Alliance for Progress" funds, they declared, spurred the Lleras regime into the most shameless espousal of the side of the banking interests, all of whom are tied up with Wall Street. Their charges met with roars from the crowd that resounded from the stone walls of the government buildings surrounding the plaza. The official excuse for breaking the strike was that it was "illegal." In 1959, Lleras broke the first bank-workers strike through a decree declaring banks to be a "public service." The purpose was (Continued on Page 3)

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Vol. 25 - No. 36 Monday, October 9, 1961 Price 10c

Auto Workers Press Drive To Improve Plant Conditions

OCT. 4 — The nationwide walk-out of the Ford auto workers, after the UAW leaders and the company reached agreement on the economic issues, points up the vital need for an industry-wide union drive against speed-up and general deterioration of working conditions. The Ford workers are now extending the battle opened by the GM workers who were pressured by Walter Reuther into returning to work before they had settled all their working-condition grievances.

By Della Rossa

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 30 — "We're going back to work with a gun at our heads, and it's not General Motors' gun, it's Reuther's."

This is the way Harold Cle-

Dr. Pauling Scores 'Shelter' Program

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 30 — Construction of fall-out shelters is a form of militarism which increases the danger of nuclear war. This warning was given by Dr. Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize-winning scientist and world famous opponent of nuclear weapons' testing, to a Joint Anti-Nuclear Protest Rally tonight at Warehousemen's Hall. Sharing the platform with Dr. Pauling were John T. McTernan, chairman of the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice, and Theodore Edwards, Southern California chairman of the Socialist Workers Party. Dr. A.J. Lewis of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee presided. "The joker in the civil-defense program is that by increasing the ratio of an atomic attack by four, the value of the protection program is wiped out," Dr. Pauling declared. Dr. Pauling, who has been hounded by Congressional witch-hunters because he got 11,000 scientists to sign petitions protesting nuclear tests, was interrupted by applause when he said, "I asked Khrushchev to stop the tests and said I spoke for the whole human race. And I said that I spoke for the whole human race because someone must, the politicians don't!"

ments, president of United Auto Workers Local 216 at nearby South Gate put it at a Sept. 25 meeting as the GM workers voted three to one to go back to work, but at the same time roundly booed International President Walter Reuther. (A South Gate newspaper banner-headlined the story: "GM Opens, Union Charges Reuther 'Sell-Out'".) "Walter Reuther never had it so bad," is the way the Sept. 28 South Gate Press reported the meeting, "even in Time Magazine — as he did in South Gate Local 216 of the UAW Monday afternoon." The Los Angeles Mirror News report (Sept. 26) on Local 216's voting said, "They tore up their ballots, yanked other ballots from collection boxes and balked on voting for what they considered (Continued on Page 4)

Garza Assails Sending Needy To Puerto Rico

By Richard Garza

Socialist Workers Candidate For Mayor of New York

During the past two months 43 people in New York have been deported back to Puerto Rico and another 52 have been sent back to the South. What was their crime? Nothing, except that they were unfortunate enough to be dependent on public welfare at a time when the city Democratic administration and the state Republican administration joined hands for a new crackdown on welfare "chiselers." This inhuman treatment of the most downtrodden part of the population is particularly despicable since it is also being used to bolster the lying claim that the city's Puerto Rican people are a gang of loafers who come here to live off welfare. Mayor Wagner's welfare commissioner, James P. Dumpson, and Governor Rockefeller's deputy state welfare commissioner, Peter Cassius, have moved to regularize the deportation process by giving the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico three months to arrange for the handling of families to be sent back. After the three-months, the city would offer such families transportation money and if they refused to go they would be cut off welfare. (After protest by Puerto Rican officials, Cassius assured that this was not an "ultimatum" — just a "suggestion.") (Continued on Page 2)

Cuba Gives Williams Asylum; New Evidence Links Cops to Beating of Freedom Rider

By John Thayer

Cuba's Revolutionary Government on Oct. 3 announced that it was granting political asylum to Robert F. Williams, North Carolina Negro leader. Williams, who was indicted on framed-up kidnap charges following white-supremacist rioting against Freedom Riders and Negroes in Monroe N. C., on Aug. 27, had been the object of a FBI manhunt covering the U.S., Canada and Mexico. First word that the militant civil-rights leader had outwitted the FBI and Canadian "Mounties" and had arrived safely in Cuba came in dispatches Sept. 29 from William Worthy, an American Negro newspaperman now in Havana for the York, Pennsylvania, *Gazette and Daily* and the Baltimore *Afro-American*, one of the nation's leading Negro newspapers. In granting a haven of safety to Williams, the Cuban government stated that a paramount consideration was the fact that Negroes "are mistreated and persecuted as animals" in the U.S. Worthy said in his dispatches that Williams' escape had been coordinated by a veritable modern underground railway. Various groups and individuals had cooperated to speed the fugitive on his way. Frequently they arranged for attorneys to be at Williams' side in case of his sudden capture and to refute any false charges of "shot while resisting arrest."



Robert F. Williams

The FBI Wanted Circular for Williams contained false and inciting information calculated to encourage police officers encountering him to shoot on sight. Its repudiation and withdrawal had been demanded of U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy by the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants, which is headed by Dr. A. E. Perry of Monroe. Williams related that after the homes of some of his Canadian friends had been searched by police, they were told: "That man hasn't got a chance. We will send him back to the States in a pine box."

One They Missed

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who this time didn't live up to their boast about "always getting their man," put out a dragnet for Williams in Canada and reportedly had hundreds of FBI agents attached to them for the search. The detaining of a white couple for several hours by an excited crowd in Monroe's Negro community, which feared an imminent KKK invasion, serves as the basis of all the kidnap indictments. Interviews given to North Carolina papers by the white woman involved show that Williams argued against detaining the couple, that he used his influence to prevent harm coming to them and that when he had calmed the crowd they were released unharmed. In a letter published two weeks ago in *The Militant*, Williams declared he was innocent of the charges and that he was being ac-

"My Freedom Has Been Grossly Violated"

By L. Morris

ELKTON, Md. — A trial of three Negroes and a white at the Cecil County Courthouse Sept. 21-22 didn't help the State Department in its efforts to eliminate U.S. Route 40 from the "image" of America. The main artery between Washington, D.C., and New York, Route 40, is used frequently by foreign diplomats traveling between the two centers. This has added to the business of the eating places along the highway but has also proven a headache for the State Department since a number of diplomats from Asian and African states have been denied service in various of these restaurants which exclude "colored." Accounts of such incidents have been well publicized throughout the world. On Sept. 6, the spotlight was again focused on Route 40's Jim Crow eateries, this time by the victimization of four Americans three of them Negro and one white. Wallace F. Nelson, his wife Juanita, Rose Robinson and Mrs. Kay Myer Fields were returning home to Philadelphia from a visit to Washington. At dinnertime they stopped at the Bar H Chuck House. When they sat down at a booth a waitress informed them the establishment did not serve "colored." The four are working people, integrationists and pacifists. They had no thought of doing battle with Jim Crow when they stopped to eat since there were no signs indicating the restaurant was lily-white. But when they were denied service they stood their ground, refusing to leave. State troopers arrived, all prepared with copies of a Maryland "trespass" law which gives the owners of public places the unconstitutional "right" to deny entry to anyone they choose. Juanita Nelson decided to defy them with civil disobedience tactics. Declared under arrest, she simply slipped to the floor. The cops carried her out and drove her to magistrate's court while the other three followed behind. All were arrested for violating the "trespass" law and jailed for a hearing the next day. Personal circumstance required Mrs. Fields to accept the legal procedures and she was found

"guilty" and fined \$50. The Nelsons and Rose Robinson, however, refused to recognize the validity of the proceedings, demanded they be released and refused to cooperate in any way, holding that the proceedings were completely immoral. They began a hunger strike that was to last for 17 days. They refused to follow any dictates of the authorities and, refusing to walk, were dragged to the various proceedings. Publicity developed around this novel opposition to Maryland's Jim-Crow law. State Attorney J. Albert Roney countered with a vicious move. He had them sent to Crownsville State Hospital for psychiatric examination. If found "unbalanced" they would have been committed to a mental hospital. However, friends of the three protested and the Maryland NAACP condemned the proceedings. The psychiatrist found them sane and able to stand trial and they were brought into the county circuit court which heard the trespass charges as well as Mrs. (Continued on Page 4)

(Continued on Page 2)

The Furor Over Huldah Clark

By Larry Smith

NEWARK — The Sept. 24 edition of the *Newark Star Ledger* featured front-page statements by three Negro leaders condemning the William Clark family for sending their 14-year-old daughter to the Soviet Union for schooling.

The family was extended the invitation by Premier Khrushchev during his visit here. In accepting for their daughter, Huldah, Mr. Clark had said: "We just don't believe our kids can get as good an education in the States as they are getting over there." This is a fact that even anti-Soviet educators in this country have admitted.

Yet the Clark family is being subjected to public attack by people who should know better.

In the *Star Ledger* article, Carlton B. Norris, president of the Newark NAACP, says: "Whereas the Negro in America has not yet achieved full citizenship it is my opinion that the departure of Miss

Clark to seek an education in the Soviet Union is a mistake and can result only in the child being used as an instrument of Communist propaganda."

Mr. Norris' whereas the Negro has not yet achieved full citizenship is the kind of an understatement that leads me to wonder what kind of propaganda he is being used as an instrument of.

I wonder even more since he chooses to make his statement in a paper which has never shown any interest in the rights of Negroes or the state of our schools. Not only that but the *Star Ledger* has been this city's leading champion of one of the worst enemies of Negro rights and a decent educational system — the House Un-American Activities Committee. Mr. Norris must be aware of the charges of more than 50 Southern Negro leaders (including NAACP leaders) that HUAC has deliberately cast a pall on efforts to win equal education for Negro children as "Communist-inspired."

This isn't just something in the South. From 1955 to 1957 HUAC had its road show in Newark "exposing" public school teachers as "red propagandists." This persecution put a cloud of fear over school teachers which deteriorated the educational level even further. And HUAC's principal mouthpiece in this campaign against the teachers was the *Star Ledger*.

This yellow sheet in which these Negro leaders choose to demonstrate their super-patriotism is currently running a series in defense of HUAC. It is no doubt laying the ground for a return to Newark by the committee which is such a bitter enemy of progress.

Particularly disgusting to me was the statement in the *Star Ledger* by Irvine Turner, City Councilman from the Central Ward. Among other things, he's reported as saying Clark and his family should be deported to Russia.

The only Negro on the City Council, Turner has always faced the bitter opposition of the *Star Ledger* which has never hesitated to smear him in the dirtiest ways. It is most strange that he should allow such a paper to quote him in a diatribe against a Negro family. A family like so many others only desiring a chance for their children to have something more than the half-a-day's education that most of them get here.

It seems that these Negro leaders are sure that "constitutional guarantees will erase second-class citizenship." When, Mr. Norris? In another hundred years?

If these gentlemen were less concerned about making flag-waving apologies in a HUAC-mouthpiece paper, they might be able to do more in the fight to raise school standards in Newark. They might be able to give leadership in the demand for more schools, and full-day sessions. They might be able to do something about the fear injected into the school system by HUAC and its hate groups.

Negro families would then not feel the need to send their children elsewhere for a decent education. They would be more ready to join the fight for proper schooling here.

Pickets Cut Sales At J. C. Penney's In San Francisco

By Maria di Savio

SAN FRANCISCO — A singing, swinging picket line, with signs in English and Chinese, has been maintained for more than two months by striking employees at the local J. C. Penney's Department Store.

The key issue is renewal of a contract won two-and-a-half years ago. The strikers are members of Department Store Employees Union, Local 1100 and Retail Shoe and Textile Salesmen's Union, Local 410.

In addition to refusing to extend the contract, Penney's, San Francisco, one of a chain of 1,753 stores, wants to slash sales commissions by as much as \$400 over a nine-month period; refuse a third week's vacation after five years of service (a standard condition in retail stores here); and hire more extras at non-union wages during the Christmas and other seasonal rushes.

The store is operating with a scab force composed mainly of executive personnel and their relatives, retail trainees on their way up to management, a few very young workers who don't know any better and some out-of-town or down-and-out workers who just don't care.

Since Penney's customers are mostly workers, the picket line has been effective and business has dropped considerably. Other unions are helping the strikers. The local butchers' union, for example, has donated meat to the strike kitchen which serves three meals a day.

To publicize their fight, the strikers have "walking pickets" all over the city, particularly in the Chinese, Negro and Latin-American communities.

Although the strikers — 95 per cent women — are hard-hit economically, they are vigorously — and verbally — waging a good fight. Their picket line is the liveliest thing on Market Street with catchy union songs, sung to the tune of such standards as "California, Here I Come," and "When the Saints Go Marching In."

...Puerto Ricans

(Continued from Page 1)

Who are the targets of the deportation program? Here is an example. Mrs. Georgina Lopez came to New York a year ago with her four children after her husband deserted her. She went to work in a lingerie factory and was laid off. Her next job was in a laundry at \$42 a week. Of this she had to pay \$20 a week for a baby-sitter.

When she could no longer manage she turned to the welfare department which gave her a few dollars a week in supplementary relief. Then she ran into baby-sitting problems and left the job.

The welfare Department intervened — not with an offer of a better paying job or nursery care for the children — but with a telegram on a Friday telling her to be ready on Monday for a plane trip back to Puerto Rico.

News of the deportation hit the press and the proceedings slowed down. But Dumpson said Mrs. Lopez would be returned to Puerto Rico shortly.

Such brutal treatment of the poor must be stopped. Three things are urgently needed as a starter in dealing with the real welfare problem in this city. First, a city minimum wage law of \$2 an hour to reduce dependency on supplementary relief. Second, raising the welfare's present starvation standard to a level that will assure adequate help for those who need it. Third, a city rent-control law that will roll back sky-high rents by 50 per cent.

... Cuba Grants Asylum to Williams

(Continued from Page 1)

cused of kidnaping people whose lives he had actually saved.

Additional evidence of police complicity in the violence against the Freedom Riders whom Williams had invited to Monroe has been made public by Conrad Lynn, attorney for the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants.

Lynn has sent a written and signed confession by one Howard Stack to U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy and has demanded federal action against the Monroe authorities.

Text of Confession

Stack, a white prisoner in the Union County jail, brutally beat Freedom Rider Richard Griswold who had been placed in the same cell with him. The confession sent by Lynn to Attorney General Kennedy reads as follows (misspellings and punctuation are as in the original):

"On or about fourth Sunday of Aug. 1961. I was in union county jail on 5 charges of worthless checks and 2 assault charges. The Monroe police and security [?] forces of the city of Monroe put to me a proposition if I would by force assault one of the freedom riders Griswold they would see I went free of my charges. This beating I did in the bottom cell in the union county jail. I went free for two weeks and was picked back up and sentenced for the crimes which was supposed to be dropped for the assault I did for them. They turned their backs on me is why I confess to this."

At the time of the assault, Stack boasted to the imprisoned Freedom Riders that the police had agreed beforehand to reward him for the beating. He also stated that he had been promised a knife for the job but at the last minute had not been given it.

It remains to be seen what action Attorney General Kennedy will now take. Police beating of prisoners or complicity therein is a clear violation of federal civil-rights laws. Kennedy, however, has a long record, for someone in



Dr. A. E. Perry

office such a short time, of refusing to act on complaints against Monroe racists. Robert F. Williams sent repeated appeals to Kennedy in connection with attempts on his life made in full view of the local police. He also urged federal intervention to prevent the outbreak of white-supremacist violence which finally came on Aug. 27. All of Williams' appeals to Kennedy were ignored. The moment, however, the framed-up kidnap charges against Williams were made, Kennedy issued a public statement promising swift action.

In Union County the colored community is suspiciously watching the handling of a case in which four white men beat and raped a Negro girl. Police reluctance to act was in the usual pattern of Union County law enforcement where Negroes' rights are involved. The girl's persistence, however, finally led to the holding of two men whom she identified. Police, however, refuse to specify the charges which will be lodged against the attackers. The Negro community fears that the police intend to drop charges completely or to lodge very minor charges.

'Elated to Read Williams' Letter'

Instead of appealing to readers to contribute to the annual fund which helps sustain publication of *The Militant*, we are publishing the following letter from R.A.L., a Youngstown worker who contributed a hard-earned \$3 last week.

"I want to commend your fine paper and its progressive policies toward the American Negro. I especially appreciated the Sept. 25 issue of *The Militant* with its courageous disclosure of the frame-up of freedom fighter Robert F. Williams. I certainly was elated to read his letter you printed in which he certainly vindicates himself to me or to any other reader unless that reader was himself previously prejudiced.

"I am enclosing \$3 to your fund drive. Also, I agree with your idea

that we need very urgently a third political party, particularly a powerful labor party similar to that recently formed in Canada. Our third party should be a strong revolutionary socialist party!

"The articles you have written in different issues of *The Militant* about the experiences of the Freedom Riders are certainly remarkable disclosures. I wish to congratulate you for printing them. You never read such important information in the capital newspapers. They never report things objectively because they are instruments of capitalist propaganda."

If you share R.A.L.'s sentiments, send a check or money order today to: *Militant Fund*, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

Weekly Calendar

DETROIT

The Truth About Robert Williams and the Monroe Freedom Riders. Speaker, Melissa Singler, active in local civil rights movement and in Committee to Aid Monroe Defendants. Fri., Oct. 13, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. Aup. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

NEW YORK

New Films from Cuba — "The First Socialist July 26," "Gagarin in Havana." Plus, "The April Invasion." Fri., Oct. 13, 8:30 p.m. 116 University Place. Contrib. \$1. Aup. Militant Labor Forum.

Join us in an evening of fun, entertainment, refreshments. Sat., Oct. 7, 9 p.m. at 297 East 10th St. (Between Aves. A and B.) Apt. 3A. Contrib. \$1. Freedom for Morton Sobell in 1961.

Election Rally — Hear the Socialist Workers candidates and guests speakers Julio Medina and Dr. Annette T. Rubinstein. Fri., Oct. 27, 8 p.m. Hotel Albert, University Pl. and 11th St.

Special Offer To New Readers

A four-month trial subscription to *The Militant* for only 50 cents. Send this coupon with payment to: *The Militant*, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

Name

Street

City Zone.....

State

Fund Scoreboard

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
Denver	\$ 100.00	\$ 82.55	83
Boston	600.00	475.00	79
St. Louis	95.00	67.00	70
Twin Cities	1,300.00	922.00	70
Connecticut	160.00	100.00	63
San Francisco	600.00	357.00	60
Detroit	665.00	390.00	59
Chicago	900.00	475.00	53
Newark	160.00	84.00	53
San Diego	300.00	160.00	53
Philadelphia	320.00	153.00	48
Seattle	530.00	255.00	48
New York	4,700.00	1,690.52	36
Cleveland	530.00	182.00	34
Allentown	130.00	41.00	30
Berkeley-Oakland	530.00	147.00	28
Los Angeles	5,300.00	1,338.39	25
Milwaukee	320.00	70.00	22
General		48.50	—
Totals through Oct. 2	\$17,240.00	\$7,037.96	41

THE MILITANT

Editor: JOSEPH HANSEN

Managing Editor: GEORGE LAVAN Business Manager: KAROLYN KERRY

Published weekly, except for omission of five summer issues, by The Militant Publishing Ass'n., 116 University Pl., New York 3, N.Y. Phone CH 3-2140. Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. Subscription: \$3 a year; Canadian, \$3.50; foreign, \$4.50. Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent The Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Vol. 25 - No. 36



Monday, October 9, 1961

The Monroe Story

World Protest Freed 2 Boys

By George Lavan

The abscess of hate against civil-rights leader Robert F. Williams, festering inside Union County and North Carolina officials, burst in the summer of 1961 into police-encouraged rioting against Freedom Riders in Monroe and framed-up kidnap indictments against Williams and four others. But this poisonous tumor of racist hatred had swelled almost to the breaking point two years previously over the so-called Kissing Case.

Williams' role in calling the Kissing Case to world attention and his dogged fight for the victims' release made him a marked man. Officials in Monroe and Union County were infuriated by his exposure of their heartless racism. Governor Luther Hodges (now Secretary of Commerce), who then had hopes of being Kennedy's vice-presidential running mate, raged at the man whose exposures were tarnishing his reputation with Negro and Northern voters.

The Kissing Case began Oct. 28, 1958 when Monroe police caught two Negro boys for whom they had been searching — James Hanover Thompson, aged nine, and David "Fuzzy" Simpson, aged eight. These children were locked in the county jail for almost a week, then their mothers were given a half hour's notice to get down to the courthouse for their sons' trial.

The mothers sent word to Robert F. Williams, president of the Union County chapter of the NAACP, to come down to the courthouse to help them, but he arrived a few minutes after the proceedings had begun and was not allowed in.

Going on inside was a "separate but equal" trial of the two Negro boys. Present were no plaintiffs, witnesses against them, or defense counsel but only the judge, assorted officials, the boys and their mothers. Judge J. Hampton Price had the white accusers before him earlier in the day and on the basis of their statements he made the accusation and rendered the verdict.

It was charged that Fuzzy and Hanover had been in a white neighborhood and climbed into a culvert ditch where three little white girls were playing; that Hanover had set a kiss as the price of their getting out; that two of the girls had left without paying the price but that one had.

This was the story the white girl's parents had elicited by questioning after the horrified mother realized that her child's prattling had to do with something which had happened earlier and was not make-believe. This, of course, was the story the judge accepted.

The boy's side of the story was not heard till over a month later when Robert F. Williams accompanied by civil-rights attorney Conrad Lynn and a reporter, succeeded in interviewing the boys at the reform school in Hoffman, N.C. At the "trial," the mothers had been unable to speak privately to their sons and the sons too terrified to utter more than monosyllables.

The boys told Williams that passing through the white neighborhood, which completely surrounds their district, they saw some white boys playing cowboys and had joined in. Some white girls were watching from the sidelines. When the game was over the girls were playing in the culvert ditch. Along with one or more white boys they had joined them. They claimed that a white boy had suggested the kissing game, that the girls had agreed and that the white boy and Hanover had been kissed. Fuzzy had not been kissed because he was busy killing daddy-long-legs spiders up in the culvert and had refused to participate.

Whichever version is nearer to the truth will never be known — and is irrelevant. All that is certain is that, voluntarily or invol-

untarily, a seven-year-old white girl had kissed a nine-year-old colored boy. Trivial? Not in Union County, N.C.

It was said in Monroe that upon hearing what had happened the girl's father had taken his shotgun and gone looking for the boys. This the couple later denied to reporters. But Negro neighbors of Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Simpson stated that white people, at least one of them carrying a gun, had come looking for the boy's mothers. The mothers, \$15-a-week domestic workers, did not sleep in their homes for a week but hid with friends. At the end of that week the mayor of Monroe told a reporter for a Charlotte newspaper that racial tension "seems cooled off now." Denying stories that there had been lynch talk, he was nonetheless positive in stating that the boys should not be permitted within reach of the girl's parents. Indeed, Williams and the mothers had been told that the boys were being held in the county jail for their own protection, that is why the "trial" had taken them unawares and without a lawyer.

Judge Price found the boys guilty and committed them to indeterminate terms in the reform school for Negro boys at Hoffman. He told them that if they behaved themselves there they might be released before they reached 21. Unmentioned was the fact that negotiations had been underway with state officials since it was against ordinary North Carolina practice to put children under 12 to reform school.

Williams defeated the local press blackout on the story through Ted Poston, reporter for the *New York Post*, who broke the story on the basis of several long-distance telephone conversations. Williams then interested advocates of civil rights, both in the South and the North, in the case and with them formed the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice. This committee made all the details of the case available to the U.S. and foreign press.

It retained attorney Conrad Lynn for the court proceedings to free the boys. The national office of the NAACP, reversing the stand of its North Carolina state chairman, now entered the case and by agreement with the CCRI took over the legal expenses. (The state chairman had at first refused to help Williams because he considered him too militant against Jim Crow.) The NAACP also undertook to relocate the boys' families — both mothers had been fired from their jobs and were being harassed with eviction notices.

Gov. Hodges, who has family as well as political connections in

Union County, backed up his Attorney General and the Monroe authorities 100% in the early stages of the Kissing Case. Williams thereupon excoriated the state administration equally with Union County's officialdom. The state officials tried to cover up the scandal by causing a report to be issued stating that the boys had not been sent to reform school because of the kissing incident but because they were incorrigible juvenile delinquents with long records.

Williams and the CCRI blasted this shabby evasion by showing that the alleged incidents involved such matters as stealing a ride on another boy's bicycle and taking some ham. Moreover, these alleged examples of the depravity of the eight and nine year old children had never been entered on juvenile court records until after the campaign for the boys' release had begun.

It was in this period that Williams began to be known nationally as a Southern Negro leader. He made a national speaking tour on the case, appeared at press conferences in Northern cities and was written about and quoted in newspaper and magazine articles.

His successful refutation of all the excuses and apologies of the guilty officials and his incessant agitation for the boys' release bore fruit. Letters, telegrams and cables of protest poured in on Union County and the Governor's office from all over the U.S. and from Britain, France, Italy, Scandinavia, Belgium, China, Brazil, Canada and Holland.

In the latter country a movement calling itself Operation Snowball sprang up around the case and gathered the petitions of tens of thousands of Dutch school-children, unionists and others to present to the U.S. Embassy. Washington transmitted this pressure to Raleigh, the state capital.

In the U.S. petitions and resolutions from union locals, mass meetings, church groups and other organizations deluged the Governor's office.

On Feb. 13 Hodges and Union County surrendered, though they never forgave Williams for their humiliation. The boys were released on the pretext that their home environment would now be suitable since the NAACP had relocated the families in Charlotte.

Union County's colored community rejoiced at this triumph over Jim Crow injustice. Civil-rights fighters throughout the country, who had come to know of Williams' successful fights — first against the Ku Klux Klan, and now against the state's racist officials, began to ponder his methods.

(Second of a series)

Which Scorecard Do You Read?

The Kennedy administration has the union officialdom over a barrel. In the last election the union bureaucrats worked overtime to convince their members that a vote for the "new frontier" was the road to salvation. In office, the administration has contemptuously ignored its pre-election promises to labor and the Negro people. What are the union tops going to do about it? Were they to blast the administration's performance this might put a big question mark over their political course — a cowardly tail-ending course which they lack the guts to abandon. So they're stuck with the administration's record and have to brazen things out by trying to whitewash that record.

For example, the Sept. 30 *AFL-CIO News* greeted the adjournment of Congress with a banner headline: "Congress Chalks Up Gains, Eyes 2nd Session Battles." The article asserted that the 87th Congress was "prodged by Pres. Kennedy into its most productive session since the World War II era."

The Sept. 30 issue of *Business Week* offers an opposite and, we think, far more accurate estimate. Its headline said: "Labor's first-half score is low." "Though it made some gains," the magazine said, "labor suffered many reverses during the first session . . . And its prospects for next year are not rated much better."

The magazine predicted that in their public statements union officials would accent the positive, "But, privately, their record will show red ink."

The article cited specific issues on which labor failed to win its objectives — among them amendment of Taft-Hartley, reorganization of the NLRB, federal funds to retrain and relocate displaced workers, federal minimums on state jobless benefits, etc. The list was damaging enough even though it didn't include such overriding issues as the deliberate burial of civil rights legislation.

Business Week wasn't alone in its estimate of Congressional performance. Americans for Democratic Action — ardent Kennedy rooters — said the session was "at best one of callous expediency, and at worst one of astonishing indifference to real national needs."

ADA was quick to emphasize that its criticism was aimed at Congress, not the administration. But *Business Week* offered some light on this question too. It commented:

"There is little disposition, particularly in public, to blame Pres. Kennedy and his White House team. Union officials willingly accept the fact that labor legislation had to take a back seat to international problems."

In our view, this anti-labor magazine has, wittingly or unwittingly, put its finger on the heart of the problem. As long as the labor brass remains tied to the Democratic party and continues to support its cold-war foreign policy, legislation labor wants will continue to "take a back seat."

A Small Prevue

Those who take seriously the propaganda claims that there's no need to get so upset about the prospect of nuclear war because we'll all be safe in fall-out shelters might consider this *Associated Press* report:

"HAMPTON BEACH, N. H., Oct. 3 (AP) — Two men testing a fall-out shelter narrowly escaped death today when the air gave out in the concrete structure.

"William Kennedy, a 34-year-old restaurant operator, and his friend, Robert Moore, 22, entered the above ground shelter yesterday and had planned to stay inside for five days.

"Mr. Kennedy called his wife in their adjacent home over an intercommunicatin system and told her he was having trouble breathing.

"Mrs. Kennedy rushed to the reinforced steel door. She finally managed to open the heavy door, and fell to the ground.

The men were taken to a hospital where oxygen was administered."

And if there hadn't been somebody to open the door?

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, JULY 2, 1946 AND JUNE 11, 1960 (74 STAT. 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF The Militant, published weekly (except for omission of five summer issues) at New York, N. Y. for Oct. 1, 1961.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are: Publisher, The Militant Publishing Association, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.; Editor, Joseph Hansen, 116 University Pl., New York 3, N.Y.; Managing Editor, George Lavan, 116 University Pl., New York 3, N.Y.; Business Manager, Carolyn Kerry, 116 University Pl., New York 3, N.Y.

2. The owner is: (if owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) The Militant Publishing Association, 116 University Pl., New York 3, N.Y.; Farrell Dobbs, 116 University Pl., New York 3, N.Y.; Joseph Hansen, 116 University Pl., New York 3, N.Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees

and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required by the act of June 11, 1960 to be included in all statements regardless of frequency of issue: 4,776.

(Signed) Carolyn Kerry, business manager. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of September, 1961.

(Seal) Notary Public, State of New York, No. 31-9598925. Qualified in New York County. Term expires March 30, 1962.

... Colombia Bank Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

not to nationalize these capitalist holdings but to bring them under a provision of the Constitution barring strikes in public services.

A second strike in 1960 was partially won, but arbitration rulings in favor of the workers were disregarded in large part by the bankers. One of the demands in the current strike is that these rulings be enforced.

This year the bank workers succeeded in forging a common front among their various unions, in drawing up joint nationwide demands and designating three leaders to present the demands.

These decisions, taken Aug. 21 at a general assembly in Cartagena, were later ratified by all the participating bodies.

On Sept. 5, Lleras utilized a strike of the Avianca airplane workers to issue a decree banning industry-wide strikes. The decree was clearly aimed at the bank workers, for it would force them to present their demands for settlement on a bank-by-bank basis

and through local leaders — with strike action barred.

The most militant bank workers felt that they had no recourse but to fight. On Sept. 21 they began the picketing that led to the subsequent government repression.

Among the demands, the most important involves wages. The strikers seek a nationwide minimum of 350 pesos (\$40) a month; an eight-hour day and payment for overtime work; an increase of 85 centavos an hour (10 cents) plus a 10 per cent boost over current wages to catch up with living costs; and a sliding scale of wages as a guarantee against further hikes in living costs.

Without substantial aid from other sectors of the labor movement, the bank workers appear to face defeat. But whatever the outcome of the current struggle, they have certainly demonstrated that the "Alliance for Progress" has one meaning for ruling circles in Latin America and a quite different meaning for the working people.

... Auto Workers Fight Speed-Up

(Continued from Page 1)

poor bargaining results on the union's international level.

"In despair, the local's officials rescheduled the vote and its was finally conducted between 6 p.m. and midnight Monday."

One local union leader told this correspondent, "What we have learned from this strike is that the fight must be carried on against the top level of the union leadership. The fight erupted at the local level, but none of these terrible conditions could be taken care of locally."

The feeling in Local 216 is against the national contract between the UAW and GM, this same spokesman said. "We're in for a long hard fight," he commented, "the ranks are rebelling against the bureaucrats."

Another prominent UAW member commented, "The feeling now is for wildcat strikes, but this is a passing feeling. Local 216 workers will realize they must fight through, or over, the Reuther leadership. The classic lesson learned here is that we are not only fighting GM but the Reuther lieutenants of GM."

Local grievances, particularly against the plant speed-ups, was the big issue in this strike, rather than pay increases. One unionist remarked bitterly, "Kennedy asked for no 'inflationary' agreements. This contract could never be called 'inflationary' because we're actually taking pay cuts in it." (Two cents is being withheld from the six cents annual improvement factor for health insurance, a contribution which the company paid before, and one cent is being deducted from the cost-of-living allowance now due.)

A guarantee of 24 minutes relief time during an eight hour shift, one of the key issues in the South Gate strike action, and part of the fight against the speed-up, was made "an iron-clad right" in the new agreement. For the first time this concession was put into writing.

The *South Gate Press* put it accurately as follows: "The swing shift went to work Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m., and the regular shift went back into the plant at 7 a.m. Wed., having nothing settled to speak of except the right to go to the bathroom twice a day."

Dissatisfaction with the agreement and with the Reuther tactics in the strike was expressed this way by Clements at the Local 216 meeting:

"I think it's wrong and anti-union for a national strike to be called and then order the men back to work here just because

some of the bigger locals across the country have been able to resolve their local differences."

Morale was high on the picket line during Local 216's two week's strike. The temper of the rank and file was also shown to management when 120 pickets saw their bargaining representatives off at the airport during the strike. Management representatives, leaving for the Detroit meeting on the same plane were confronted by airport demonstrators with picket signs saying "Against Speed-Up" and "We Want Relief" — and the burst of the stirring union song, "Solidarity Forever."

Reuther's statement, "We don't want to fight anybody, especially General Motors," has become notorious in Local 216. A leaflet appeared at the GM plant yesterday urging a "no" vote on the new contract and a stand against "Walter 'I-Don't-Want-To-Fight-GM' Reuther."

At the Local 216 meeting which agreed to go back to work, one union member said: "When a professional fighter refuses to fight, his fight license is revoked. I say that Reuther's 'fight license' should be revoked at the next con-

vention — he should be taken out of the top leadership of the UAW! The only way we can take care of working conditions is by taking on the top leadership."

There was strong resentment here against Reuther because a "preliminary contract" was already in print and had been distributed nationally, even before local ratifications.

The feeling in Local 216 against Reuther and the International officials did not extend to their local leaders. Instead, the local officials were seen as "victims of circumstance." As one auto worker put it, "Clements showed tremendous courage in this fight. He fought management, and he fought Reuther, too."

A spokesman who has worked at the GM plant for 25 years summed up the lessons of the strike this way:

"This beef has been growing for years. Management now is as callous to membership as in the 30's. Everyone in the shop is now hurting. Even the inspector's job is no longer a favored job. There is a lot of opposition to Reuther, but now we must organize that opposition."

... 'My Freedom Has Been Violated'

(Continued from Page 1)

Fields' appeal of the magistrate's conviction.

In an unprecedented action, four circuit court judges presided instead of the customary one. The Nelsons and Rose Robinson were dragged into court. When the judges entered they refused to stand.

Asked if they pleaded guilty or not guilty, they refused to plead. Asked if they elected to be tried by a jury or by the judges, Juanita Nelson replied: "I do not elect to be tried." The judges elected for them to be tried by jury and be tried separately. They refused a court offer of counsel.

Three virtually identical trials then proceeded. Participation of the defendants was limited to brief statements. Wallace Nelson said: "I explain my actions on the basis that everything that has happened is morally so wrong that I will not allow myself to participate in what is going on here. It seems I made a mistake in choosing my parents. The only crime I committed was in trying to get something to eat. I am here only because I am a Negro. Whatever is said here is not related to the real issue. Your rules are based on an immoral situation. Your whole procedure makes a farce of moral concepts."

When a judge asked Juanita Nelson if she felt there was anything unfair about the trial, she answered: "My freedom has been grossly violated. In effect, I have been kidnapped during the past 15 days. No trial can be fair under these circumstances. I wish to go free from this place."

Rose Robinson voiced similar statements.

State Attorney Roney spelled out to the juries the issue involved insofar as the State of Maryland is concerned — the property right of private owners of public establishments to bar "colored" from their premises.

All three were found guilty. They were fined \$50 each, with sentences suspended on the basis of time spent in jail. Argument was heard on the appeal of Mrs. Fields who was represented by Paul J. Cockrell of the Maryland NAACP. The appeal was denied and plans are under way to carry the fight into the higher courts, to the Supreme Court if necessary.

The impact of the whole episode was expressed by a young Negro professional who attended the trial. He said later: "What I saw here was good for me. It woke me up again and made me realize this fight is far from over. All I have to do is look in a mirror and I know I'm in it too."

Letters from Our Readers

Renew the Union Crusade

St. Clair Shores, Mich.

I have noticed your frequent hope that labor unions will take an active part in organizing the unemployed, "Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished" — but in more than 60 years in organized labor, I have never seen it. The reverse I did see — that those who had their first organizational experience in Unemployed Councils organized the production workers in the early 30's.

But I never saw a union official helping to organize the unemployed councils — no church or fraternity ever offered a hall for such activity — no priest, preacher, rabbi, or professional politician would be seen doing anything of the kind.

The leadership of the unemployed in the depths of the depression were Socialists, Communists, IWW and other left-wingers.

In the 30's we wrote contracts that no overtime could be worked while there were unemployed workers not yet called back. We had contracts that required cutting the week before any workers could be laid off. Those contract provisions have vanished from present contracts and, now, men with 20 years seniority walk the streets while the plant works overtime and Saturdays and Sundays.

In all our history, when labor accepts the leadership of professional people, labor gets led up a blind alley. Practically as bad is when leadership becomes a profession in unions. The only hope for union labor today is for the rank-and-file workers to recapture leadership from the professionals. This can be done only by organizing centers of left-wing rank-and-filers at the local union level. Practically all progressive groups have been eliminated from local unions under the pretext of removing "subversive elements." Far better "subversives" than submissives.

Human frailty is such that all movements tend to start as crusades and wind up as rackets. Periodically, it is necessary to reorganize the crusade and clear out the racketeers.

There is a lot of evidence that the unions are tired of the kind of leadership they have had for 20 years and are ready to start crusading again.

This crusade will start — if it starts at all in little local plant groups — not in national conventions.

Frank B. Tuttle

Higher Education

Los Angeles, Calif.
Determined to get an education on a higher level after 20 years have passed since my high school days, it was with enthusiasm and excitement that I enrolled at Los Angeles City College.

Having selected a well-rounded program which included math, psychology, speech and English, I set out for my first days of college. The indoctrination began five minutes after being seated in my math class.

You might ask: "How in the world can one be indoctrinated in the course of studying math?" Well, I'll tell you. A problem is given: "Last year 18 million people were employed, two million were unemployed. What per cent were unemployed?" The answer, of course, being simple. However, the instructor injects a comment. "It looks like we had a lot of lazy people last year."

Problem II is given. A factory employs 200 workers at \$5 an hour, 100 at \$3 an hour, etc. What is the average salary for an eight hour day? Again, the answer being simple. However, comments

the instructor, "It looks like the workers will soon be making more than the bosses." So goes the math class.

The next subject being psychology, I thought perhaps the information and comments would be more objective. But I was wrong. A film was shown — *Scientific Thinking*. A scene is shown of a small, dilapidated apartment where several children and their mother and father are scurrying around getting in each other's way. A child comes running into the room shouting that a big hunk of plaster just fell down from the bathroom wall. The mother gets upset and yells at the father to try to get a raise so they can move to a better apartment. The father is yelling at the mother that she should complain to the landlord.

The fair-haired son tells them to stop squabbling. He'll approach the problem scientifically. And so he spends three weeks sampling different patches on the hole in the wall until he finds one that is suitable. The narrator proudly informs us that the young scientific thinker has saved the day. This of course has shifted us away from the real core of the problem — poor housing conditions and low income.

And so the days go by here at LACC. The students get their daily dose of indoctrination and those that prove worthy get their degree which establishes they are now full-fledged free thinkers. After all they did get their education in our democratic educational system.

H.K.

Neiman-Marcus Salutes

Dallas, Texas

The Neiman-Marcus department store is having a big celebration to salute the products which the *Times-Herald* says "symbolize this country's high living standard." They should have added, "for some." There's still no slum clearance in West Dallas but they are building an \$18-million courthouse and they have a big building program for the state prison system.

T.L.

Solidarity Pays

Philadelphia, Pa.

This is the story of a walkout at the Cuneo Eastern Press of Philadelphia.

On Friday, Sept. 22, a union committeeman working in the paper stock department was fired by the head of the department.

The cause of the dispute was a conflict over job classification. The boss wanted a trucker to check and truck. Checking is usually done by any person so designated for that day.

The committeeman told the trucker not to check. The boss fired him for insubordination. This was at 1:30 p.m.

One half hour later all the paper stockmen except two were fired when they stopped work. This was 15 or 16 men. The men went through the plant and told everybody they were fired.

The second-shift paper stockmen were spoken to. The boss asked them to go to work. They refused. He fired them.

At 5:30 p.m. the whole plant stopped working. The president of Local 520, Printing & Paper Workers spoke with the company. The company wanted to negotiate without the fired committeeman but the union refused and the company gave in.

They agreed to take back all the fired men and arbitrate the disputed issue.

At about 7 p.m. the plant was back in operation.

Paper Worker

Thought for the Week

"There will be no material on any of our programs which could in any way further the concept of business as cold, ruthless and lacking in all sentiment or spiritual motivation." — From a statement of programming policy by Proctor & Gamble on its \$100,000,000-a-year TV advertising budget.

It Was Reported in the Press

Civil Liberties Victory — The Newark Board of Education voted 5-to-4 Sept. 27 to reinstate Dr. Robert Lowenstein as chairman of the Barringer High School language department and to give him \$51,000 in back pay. Dr. Lowenstein was fired in 1955 for defying the House Un-American Activities Committee. The State Supreme Court ordered him reinstated earlier this year after a long legal battle.

Safe Trip — Six Electra aircraft have been involved in fatal crashes within 39 months. The Sept. 18 *New York Times* reported: "Companies that purchased the \$2,500,000 craft [Electra] have complained about such things as an industrial vacuum cleaner in a fuel tank and missing bolts."

Deep-Fry Shelters — "The 100-megaton bomb that Premier Khrushchev said is being built by the Soviet Union . . . could start fires over an area larger than the state of Vermont . . . The widespread incendiary effects of the

bomb also have direct bearing on civil-defense planning. As some government experts on weapons effects have pointed out, the question arises as to the wisdom of the present policy of encouraging construction of fall-out shelters in the basements of homes. The net result, they cautioned, might be to trap families far removed from the target area in the flaming wreckage of their homes." — The Oct. 2 *New York Times*.

"Free-World" Fugitives — The most pressing problem currently facing international relief organizations is the 130,000 Angolans who have fled to the Congo since last March in the wake of bloody Portuguese efforts to crush the independence movement in Angola, according to Rev. Elfan Rees, advisor on refugee problems to the World Council of Churches. He also noted that while there is a 17 percent surplus of food in North America, there is a 34 per cent deficit in the rest of the world. "Two-thirds of the world goes hungry to bed every night," he said.

Student Action — Twenty-five students at Ithaca University staged a 30-hour sit-down at a public square on the campus Sept. 27-28 in protest against nuclear tests. They refrained from smoking, eating, drinking or studying. School authorities didn't interfere except to warn women students that they were supposed to be in their dorms by midnight.

Odds on Tomorrow? — A Wisconsin atomic shelter builder offers five years to pay.

A Real Long Shot — Right after we typed the item above this one, our attention was called to a classified ad in a Dallas, Texas, paper. There a bomb shelter builder is offering no down payment and 20 years to pay.

Then Why So Expensive? — "The main Biblical evidence, and particularly the example of the teaching of our Lord, requires the positive view that alcoholic beverages are a gift from God." — Rt. Rev. Albert E. Morris, Archbishop of Wales.